

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to **Figs. 5** and **6**. This sheet, which includes **Figs. 5** and **6**, replaces the original sheet including **Figs. 5** and **6**. In each of **Figs. 5** and **6**, Applicant is adding the label "Prior Art."

Attachments: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

Request for Reconsideration:

Applicant is amending claim 1 to include the limitations of claims 2 and 8 and claims 1 and 6 to clarify the description of the claimed invention. Further, Applicant is cancelling claims 2 and 8, without prejudice, and amending claim 3 to depend from amended claim 1. Applicant also is amending the specification consistent with the amendments to claim 6 and is amending **Figs. 5 and 6** to include the label "Prior Art.". In addition, Applicant is amending the application to include new claims 9-15, describing an embodiment in which the auxiliary blades are placed behind the main blades. Appl'n, Para. [0036]. As a result of these amendments, claims 1, 3-7 and 9-15 are pending in this application.

No new matter is added by the foregoing amendments, and these amendments are fully supported by the specification. No fees are due as result of these amendments. However, in the event of any variance between the fees determined by Applicant and the fees determined by the PTO, please charge such variance to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 02-0375. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter these amendments and reconsider the above-captioned patent application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Remarks:

1. Objections and Rejections.

The Office Action objects to **Figs. 5 and 6** as failing to include the label “Prior Art.” Further, claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2, as allegedly being indefinite; claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,139,273 to Schwarz *et al.* (“Schwarz”); and claims 5-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly rendered obvious by Schwarz in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,900,228 to Yapp. Applicant respectfully traverses.

2. Drawing Objections.

As noted above, the Office Action objects to **Figs. 5 and 6**, as failing to include the label “Prior Art.” The Office Action contends that this label is proper “because only that which is old is illustrated.” Office Action, Page 2, Lines 3-4 (*citing* MPEP 608.02(g)). In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicant respectfully traverses this objection and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objections to **Figs. 5 and 6**.

3. Indefiniteness Rejections.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected as allegedly being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

The Office Action rejects claim 1 because the phrases “diameter direction” and “inside and outside” are allegedly unclear. Applicant is amending claim 1 to replace these phrases, thereby clarifying the description of the invention. Further, the Office Action rejects claim 6 because the meaning of the term “warping” is allegedly unclear. Applicant intended to use the term “warpage” in this claim. “Warpage” is defined as “[t]he action, process, or *result of* twisting or turning out of shape.” McGraw-Hill Dictionary of Scientific and Technical Terms 2045 (4th ed. 1989) (copy enclosed; italics added). Applicant is replacing “warping” with “warpage” in claim 6 and in Para. [0029] of the specification. These corrections render the language of claim 6 and Para. [0029] consistent with remainder of the specification and drawings. *E.g.*, Appl’n, Paras. [0034] and [0036]; **Fig. 4**. Finally, claim 8 stands rejected

because the direction from which the thickness of the blades are measured allegedly is not defined in the claim. Applicant is cancelling claim 8 and is amending claim 1, which now includes the limitations of claim 8, to clarify the direction of measurement of the thickness of the blades and to distinguish the claimed subject matter from the Office Action's interpretation of Schwarz, as depicted in the Figure at Office Action, Page 5. In view of the proposed amendments, Applicant respectfully traverses the indefiniteness rejections and respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw those rejections.

4. Anticipation Rejections.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected as allegedly anticipated by Schwarz. "A claim is anticipated if and only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." MPEP 2131. The Office Action alleges that Schwarz describes each and every element as set forth in claims 1-4. Applicant respectfully traverses.

In view of the amendments to claim 1 incorporating the limitations of claims 2 and 8, the anticipation rejections of claim 1 and claims 2-4, which depend from claim 1, now are moot. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the anticipation rejections of claims 1, 3, and 4.

5. Obviousness Rejections.

Claims 5-8 stand rejected as allegedly rendered obvious by Schwarz in view of Yapp. In order for the Office Action to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, at least three criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the combined references or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to combine the cited references, in the manner proposed by the Office Action. Second, the prior art references must disclose or suggest all the claim limitations. Third, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. MPEP 2143. For the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully disagrees.

As noted above, Applicant is amending claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 8, and Applicant is amending the subject matter of claim 8 to specify the direction in which the

thickness of the blades is measured, i.e., “substantially perpendicular to the chord.” The Office Action includes a Figure in which the Office Action purports to show the measurement of the thickness of the blades, i.e., t_1 and t_2 . Office Action, Page 4, Lines 19-23. In view of Applicant’s amendments to claim 1, Applicant claims blade thicknesses which are distinguishable over the thicknesses as measured in the Office Action’s Figure. In addition, because Schwarz’s figures are not drawn to scale, the Office Action cannot properly rely on those figures to support these rejections.² MPEP 2125 states that “[w]hen the reference does not disclose that the drawings are to scale and is silent as to the dimensions, arguments based on measurement of the drawings features are of little value.” MPEP 2125, pg. 2100-66 (8th ed., Rev. 2 May 2004). Applicant respectfully requests that the Office Action withdraw the obviousness rejections of claims 5-7 based on Schwarz in view of Yapp.³

Conclusion:

Applicant maintains that the above-captioned patent application, as amended, now is in condition for allowance, and such disposition is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that the prosecution of this application may be furthered by discussing the application,

² MPEP 2125 states that “[w]hen the reference does not disclose that the drawings are to scale and is silent as to the dimensions, arguments based on measurement of the drawings features are of little value.” MPEP 2125, pg. 2100-66 (8th ed., Rev. 2 May 2004).

³ The Office Action relies on Yapp solely for the teaching that the blades may be made from a resin. Office Action, Page 5, Lines 2-5 (citing Yapp, Column 6, Lines 18-19).

in person or by telephone, with Applicant's representative, we would welcome the opportunity to do so.

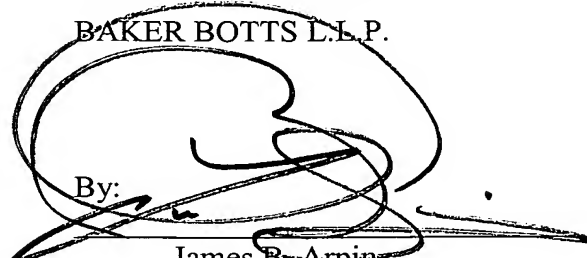
Respectfully submitted,
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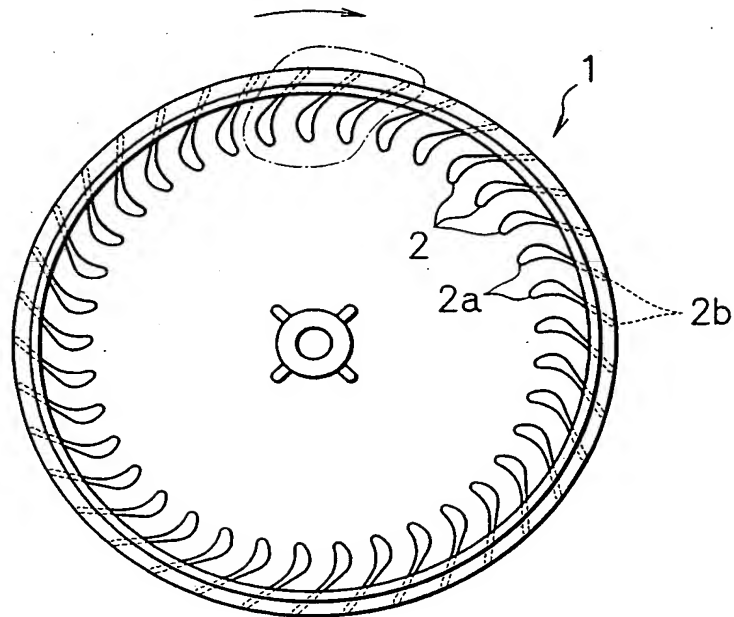
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Enclosures

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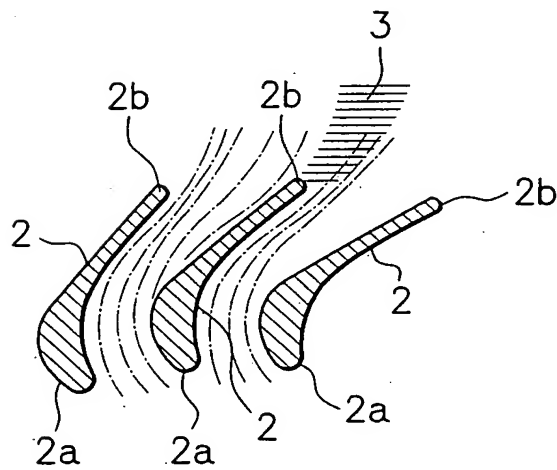
F I G. 5

BLOWER ROTATING DIRECTION



PRIOR ART ← ADD LABEL

F I G. 6



PRIOR ART ← ADD LABEL